

Appl. No. 10/606,905
Docket No.: H1799-00187
Reply to Office Action dated 04/07/2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

As a result of this Amendment, claims 13-16 are under active consideration in the subject patent application.

In the Official Action, the Examiner has:

(1) rejected claims 1,3,5, 6, 8, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of a proposed combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,397,935, issued to Yamamoto et al., and U.S. Patent No. 4,274,479, issued to Eastman;

(2) rejected claims 2, 4, 7, 9, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of a proposed combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,397,935, issued to Yamamoto et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,274,479, issued to Eastman, and U.S. Patent No. 6,536,510, issued to Khrustalev et al.;

(3) rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of a proposed combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,397,935, issued to Yamamoto et al., and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0136550, filed by Tung et al.; and

(4) identified claims 13-16 as defining allowable subject matter.

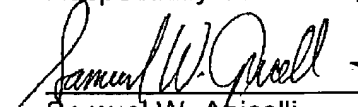
With regard to Items 1-4, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-12 without prejudice. Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter presented in claims 1-12 in related applications. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's determination that claims 13-16 present allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing
prosecution of the above-identified application, Applicants' undersigned Attorney
invites the Examiner to telephone him at 717-237-5516.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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